

FIG. 13 shows an example of multiple albums being shown in both the picture database region 303 and the album list region 307. Album 2, represented by the icon 1275 which is shown as opened, has been selected in the picture database region 303 resulting in the thumbnail 1271 being displayed. There is only one image in album 2 and thus only one thumbnail is shown in the thumbnail region 305 (alternatively labeled region 1273). A different album has been selected in the album list region 307. This album is the sample album which is shown as opened sample album 805, and a page from that selected album, page 1261, is shown in the album page region 309. If the user desires, the image from album 2 may be added to the sample album by dragging the thumbnail 1271 to a page in the selected album in the album page region 309.

FIG. 14 shows one aspect of the present invention which involves a dynamic changing of album pages as a result of the changing of the layout of a page. A row of thumbnails 1401 includes six thumbnail images 1401a, 1401b, 1401c, 1401d, 1401e, and 1401f. The currently selected layout for the two pages of the album, pages 1403 and 1405, are also shown in FIG. 14. Album page 1403 has a four-picture layout, and album page 1405 has a three-picture layout. Each of the slots in the two different pages has an assigned number and the ordered list of pictures represented by the row of thumbnails is assigned accordingly as shown in FIG. 14. When the user changes the layout such as a change layout operation 1407, the picture album automatically and dynamically repositions the pictures. Thus if the user selects a three-picture layout for the first page of the picture album, then album page 1409 is created for the first page and the ordered list of pictures is reassigned to the new slot numbers in the album pages 1409 and 1411.

Another aspect of the present invention is shown in FIG. 15. Whenever an image in one embodiment is placed into a picture slot on an album page, it is scaled using conventional scaling techniques to fit into the slot while at the same time maintaining the aspect ratio of the original image. As shown in FIG. 15, the original image 1501 has a width of 640 pixels and a height of 480 pixels. When this source image is placed into a particular album page slot, such as slot 1505, the source image will be scaled to a width of 160 pixels by a height of 120 pixels in order to keep the same aspect ratio of the source image. Thus the slot, shown as 160 pixels by 160 pixels will in one direction not be completely filled up.

The foregoing description has provided numerous examples of the present invention. It will be appreciated that various modifications and changes may be made thereto without departing from the broader spirit and scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims. Further details concerning particular embodiments of the present invention may also be found in the following copending patent application Ser. No. 08/957,219, which was filed on Oct. 24, 1997, and which is hereby incorporated herein by reference; this copending application is as follows: "Methods and Apparatuses for Transferring Data Between Data Processing Systems" by inventors Chan Chiu, Steve Morris, and Wu Wang.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for presenting a collection of digital media in a digital image album, said method comprising:  
displaying in a first region a full view of a page of a digital image album, said page being capable of displaying at least one visual representation of a digital media on said page, said page having a position in said first region which is capable of displaying an image of a first visual representation, said image being stored in a file storage device by a file management system;

displaying in a second region said first visual representation while displaying said page in said first region, said image being displayable at said position after a dragging operation is performed from said first visual representation in said second region to said position, said image being concurrently displayed in said first region and in said second region after said dragging operation and wherein said first visual representation occupies less displayed space in said second region than said image occupies in said page;

storing in a database said first visual representation and an association to said image as stored on said file storage device wherein said database comprises digital image information which specifies an assigned order of digital images in said digital image album, and further wherein said assigned order may be changed by a dragging operation performed on said first visual representation within said second region, said dragging operation further comprising selecting said first visual representation in said second region by positioning a cursor over said first visual representation and moving said cursor, after selecting said first visual representation, to said position.

2. A method as in claim 1 wherein said first visual representation is a lower resolution version of said image.

3. A method for presenting a collection of digital media in a media container, said method comprising:

displaying in a first region a full view of a page of a media container, said page being capable of displaying at least one visual representation of a digital media on said page, said page having a position in said first region which is capable of displaying an image of said first visual representation;

displaying in a second region a first visual representation while displaying said page in said first region;

storing in a file management system data for said digital media, and storing in a database said first visual representation and an association to said data for said digital media wherein said media container is a digital image album and said first visual representation is a lower resolution version of said digital media and wherein said database comprises digital image information for said digital media, and further wherein said database comprises digital image album information which specifies an assigned order of pictures in said digital image album, said assigned order being changeable by a dragging operation performed on said first visual representation within said second region, said dragging operation comprising selecting said first visual representation in said second region by positioning a cursor over said first visual representation and moving said cursor, after selecting said first visual representation, to said position.

4. A computer readable storage medium containing executable computer program instructions which when executed by a digital processing system cause the digital processing system to perform a method for presenting a collection of digital media in a digital image album, said method comprising:

displaying in a first region a full view of a page of a digital image album, said page being capable of displaying at least one visual representation of a digital media on said page, said page having a position in said first region which is capable of displaying an image of a first visual representation, said image being stored in a file storage device by a file management system;